GLORY

OF THE

HEAVENLY CITY,

AND

Bleſſedneſs of departed SAINTS,

GRACIOUSLY MANIFESTED

In a VISION,

To a YOUNG LADY of *BRISTOL*,

On the 10th of OCTOBER, 1781.

As related by HERSELF.

The SECOND EDITION.

BATH;

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THE SECOND EDITION

HEAVENLY CITY

THE GLORY OF THE HEAVENLY CITY, AND *Bleſſedneſs of departed SAINTS.*

DEAR READER,

I AM one who from my tender Years, to this bleſſed Day, have been brought up in the School of *Adverſity*, or in other Words, the School of CHRIST; having, at different Periods of my Life, had a large Share of *Pain* of Body, and *Diſtreſs* of Mind, and drank deeply of thoſe bitter Waters of Affliction, which were neceſſary to purify my *unregenerate* Nature. For it is an eternal Truth, proclaimed by GOD himſelf, as well as the *Voice* of *Nature* in ourſelves, that *we muſt be born again, or we cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.* And that cannot be done without *going through much Tribulation*, as the *Holy Scripture* expreſsly tells us, and *Experience* fully confirms.

But though I have drank thus deeply of the Waters of Affliction, with all the Saints of GOD in every Age, yet think not that I have been left *Comfortleſs* any more than they, *in following* my SAVIOUR *in the Regeneration.* NO; when he tabernacled with Mankind, juſt before his Departure to Heaven, he promiſed to ſend the HOLY COMFORTER *to make his Abode* in our Hearts, if we continue to be his faithful Diſciples. I have, agreeably to his Promiſes, at divers Seaſons, felt his *enlivening Preſence* within me, diffuſing a divine Joy in my Heart, and that Peace of GOD *which paſſeth all Underſtanding*, and admits of no Delineation. For,

No Tongue of Eloquence can teach,
Nor Art of Pen *theſe Secrets* reach;
Th' *experienc'd Soul* alone can prove,
What *Sweets* they taſte, who JESUS love.

But to come now to the following Relation, which is addreſſed to the Chriſtian and candid Reader, whoſe Heart, tinctured with divine Love, ſtands open to the full Reception of heavenly Truths.

To ſuch, I thus freely and ſolemnly declare the Matter. Being brought by a late ſevere Illneſs to a languiſhing State, on *Wedneſday*, the 10th of October, 1781, during an Abatement of my Diſ-

order,

order, as I lay in Bed, I ſaw in a VISION (which continued from *five* o'Clock in the Evening, 'till *five* o'Clock the next Morning) *Two Men* in *bright Cloathing*, ſtanding at my Bedſide, who ſaid to me, *You muſt come and ſee the City.*

I then received freſh Strength, and mounted upwards with them; it ſeeming not as if I walked, but rather flew up ſwiftly, a vaſt Way in the Air, after paſſing through many pleaſing Scenes in the Paſſage, which I cannot now deſcribe. We then came to a *large Place*, where were Crowds of People, to Appearance, all puſhing forward to the *Gate* which led to the *City*; and altho' there were ſuch Multitudes of Perſons preſſing towards it, we paſſed along as if there were none. When we came to the *Gate*, it opened to us immediately, without the Aſſiſtance of the *Keeper* of it; which I very well remember, becauſe others were ſtopped and examined, but we were not.

On my being admitted into the *heavenly City*, I received, as I thought, *a Change of Nature*, and ſeemed quite *Light* to myſelf; and was ſo raviſhed with the Sight of what I beheld, that I remained ſilent for ſome Time; 'till recollecting myſelf, I ſaid to my *Guides*, *Where am I?* They ſaid, *In the* CITY *of* LIGHT. On beholding the bleſſed In-

habitants

habitants, I ſaid, *Are theſe the Spirits of living, or departed Souls?* Immediately they ſaid, *Look round.* And looking round, I ſaw my deceaſed *Aunt H. T.* quite glorious to behold. And what Wonder? Since ſhe lived a moſt holy Life: Divine Love ſitting ſmiling on her Face, ſweetly invited each Beholder to be like her, *Good* and *Happy*. I cannot help paying this juſt Tribute of Gratitude and Praiſe to her Memory, who, in my early Youth, was in a great Meaſure, the bleſſed Inſtrument of awakening the heavenly Life in my Soul. After looking at her with Pleaſure, for ſome Time, I advanced forward, and my *Guides* ſaid to me, *Come hither*, leading me a little aſide; when I ſaw a *beautiful Youth*, with inexpreſſible Sweetneſs in his Countenance, who ſeemed to be in a *Grove*. I was charmed with his heavenly Looks, and ſaid to my *Guides*, *Who is this?* They told me that *He was ABEL, who left the World before he had contracted much Sin.* I ſtopped in that Place ſome Time, not knowing how to leave it, 'till my *Guides*, who were on each Side of me, moved me to go forward: I then beheld Multitudes of *glorified Spirits* on every Side; and coming to a Place on which was a little Aſcent, I ſaw my Relation the *Reverend* Mr. *B. B.* long ſince deceaſed, looking very venerable and pleaſant. And well he might look pleaſant, and *ſhine, as a Star, for ever and ever.*

Since

Since by the perſuaſive Eloquence of his holy Life, heavenly Doctrine, diffuſive Charity and ardent Love of Souls, in diſcharging his ſacred Truſt, he had *turned many to Righteouſneſs*; ſpreading holy Joy and Gladneſs of Heart all around him, by weaning the Affections of Men from this deluſive World, and fixing them on that HEAVENLY CITY, where true Happineſs is only to be found. These were his laſt exulting Expreſſions: *One more Struggle will carry me to my GOD; and then, what great Joy, what Congratulations will there be, upon my Arrival in Glory!*

But to proceed. Going on, I ſaw certain Spirits, in Number about *Forty*, whom I immediately conjectured to have been Kings, when on Earth, from their bearing *Crowns*, and *Sceptres*, and upon aſking my *Guides*, *Who they were*, they confirmed me in it. We walked on; and the farther we went, the more *illuminated* the Place ſeemed to grow. Then I came to behold what I want Words ſufficiently to deſcribe. And I ſaid to my *Guides*, *I cannot go farther*, but they ſaid, *That the farther I went, the more Strength I ſhould receive.* And accordingly we went forward, 'till we came to the THRONE on which the ANCIENT of DAYS was ſitting, where I would fain have *proſtrated* myſelf with the *Angelic Choir:* But my *Guides* reſtrained me from doing it, ſaying,

ſaying, *that I was not yet prepared*; and ſo, holding me up in their Arms, prevented me.

I then ſaw *Thouſand Thouſands* of the heavenly Hoſt, *miniſtering unto our* GOD, *and Ten Thouſand Times Ten Thouſand ſtanding before Him*, ſinging, *Worthy is the Lamb*, in ſuch rapturous Strains, that I longed to join with them, but found myſelf unable. They all appeared to be cloathed in tranſparent Garments reſembling *Silver*, coming down to their Feet. I ſeveral Times attempted to look up to the THRONE, but the *reſplendent* and *dazzling Glory* thereof, prevented my having a clear View of what I ſo much longed to behold. So I ſaid to my *Guides*, *I muſt go forward, for I am not fit for this heavenly Company*. And upon turning to go on, I looked up once more, when I ſaw our BLESSED SAVIOUR looking down pleaſantly upon us; which brought ſuch *Strength* to my Soul, that I could have dwelt there for ever. I ſaid to my *Guides*, *Who is this glorious Perſon?* though at the ſame Time I had a Thought that I already knew him. They anſwered, *It is He whom you have* LOVED *and* FEARED. Then they again moved me to go forward, which we did; and in our Way met Multitudes of Spirits, in Appearance like *venerable Old Men*, approaching towards the THRONE, unfolding new Scenes of Joy, and attended by *little Children* with Harps in

their

their Hands; who All ſeemed to ſing the Praiſes of the Most High.

I then ſaw a *Circle of Spirits*, who appeared more glorious than the reſt, but far from the *Throne*. On which I ſaid to my *Guides*, *What is the Reaſon, that Theſe appear far more reſplendent, than the other Spirits?* They told me, *that They were ſuch as had gone through much Tribulation*. I then ſaid *I wiſh I was one of them*. And they replied, *What hinders you?* I anſwered, *Becauſe I am a ſinful Creature*. They ſaid, that *He who ſitteth upon the Throne, taketh away all Sins*. On which I found my Heart all *Love*, and knew the Place I was in, to be the *Heaven* of *Heavens*. We then went on, till we came to a Place that was a little upon a Deſcent, where appeared a Number of Souls leſs glorious than the others. I aſked my *Guides* the Reaſon why *They did not appear ſo beauteous as the Reſt?* They told me that *They had as much Glory as they were capable of receiving*. Whereupon I thought within myſelf, I had rather be nearer my God, than with thoſe Spirits; yet they all appeared fully ſatisfied with what they enjoyed. Though they all ſeemed talking in the Place, yet I could not underſtand what they ſaid. My *Guides* deſired me to look down, and ſee *which World* I liked beſt. On looking, I was much ſurpriſed to ſee a *glaſſy*

Pavement under my Feet, through which I diſcerned this World in all its poor *Nothingneſs*; for ſuch it appeared to me. The comparative Difference between the two Worlds, this *earthly* and that *heavenly* World, appearing to me like that of a *Star*, compared to the *Sun* in its meridian Glory.

My Eye was afterwards directed to one particular Spot, where I ſaw my own Family all together, excepting my Mother, with *Circles* round them, which looked like Vapour. I was much ſurpriſed at ſeeing them in that Situation, and aſked my *Guides, What was the Meaning of thoſe Circles?* They told me that *Thoſe were their Atmoſpheres.* Some were nearly filled up, others had great *Vacancies.* I aſked the Reaſon of that? They told me that *it ſhould be given me to know it, before I went back to the other World.* Accordingly they afterwards told me, it was owing to their *various Growths* in *Grace.* The Thought of going back again to the other World gave me much Uneaſineſs: And I deſired my *Guides* to go and fetch my Friends to me. They told me *That was not permitted; but I ſhould go back to them.* They alſo diſcovered to me their *different ſpiritual States*; ſome of which I knew before, others I did not.

I then

I then thought of taking up my Reſidence there by myſelf, as my Friends were not permitted to come to me: But upon being told that my Time was expired and I muſt return, I felt great *Sorrow* at leaving ſo delightful a Place; having quite forgotten that my *Guides* had told me before, that I muſt return. Upon which we went back the Way we came; when the GATE being opened, we all Three came out, and I was ſtruck with the *Keeper* ſtanding at the Outſide of it. Whereupon I ſaid to him that, *Certainly he had committed ſome great Crime, that he ſhould come ſo near the Glorious City, and yet be kept out of it.* He anſwered *All Sin is great; beware of the leaſt Appearance of it.* There were great Crowds, as before, ſtriving to enter in: Among the Reſt, was a Perſon in *bright Cloathing*, who came up in Haſte, and apparently in great Joy, and demanded Entrance. He then being ſtripped, as all were before Admittance, there appeared a *Spot* on his Breaſt, upon which he was taken away. There were others who came up in like Manner, and on being ſtripped, appeared more *ſpotted* than he was, and were alſo carried off, and I ſaw them no more. I do not remember ſeeing any more than *four* Souls admitted into the GLORIOUS CITY, during my Stay there, and thoſe received *heavenly Garments*.

We now proceeded on our Way back, when we met with great Numbers of Souls on all Sides. My *Guides* then asked me, *Whether I would see the Place of Darkness?* I answered *No*: But they said, *We must pass by it.* Accordingly we did so. And I saw the Entrance of an horrible *dark Cavern*. My *Guides* told me, that *if I would not go into it, their Commission with me was ended:* And so left me in the utmost Perplexity; only telling me to REMEMBER THE LIGHT. And being thus left by my *Guides*, I went forward, surrounded on all Hands by the *Spirits of Darkness*, who strove to seize and get me into their Possession. But I striving against them, said, that *I had the Sword of the Spirit*, and feared them not. And after much Conflict with them, (in so much that, as I was told, my Bed shook under me) I was freed from their Assaults; and going onward met with One of rather a *bright Form*, who bid me welcome to this World again. Whereupon I received my earthly Nature, immediately feeling all my Pain and Sorrow renewed. But nevertheless, having the *divine Impression* of what I had seen in the *heavenly City*, fresh and strong upon my Mind, it occasioned me, before I awoke, to break forth into Singing, and describing the Glories thereof, as I had several Times done during my *Vision*: So that those who were about me heard me with great Admiration and

Joy.

Joy. And they ſaid that I expreſsly told them, that I ſhould return to this World at *five o'Clock* in the Morning, which *exactly* came to paſs. The Remembrance of this aſtoniſhing and raviſhing *Viſion* of the World of glorified Spirits, continued very freſh on my Mind till the Middle of that Day; but is gradually growing fainter and fainter, to my great Regret. Though I aſſure the candid Reader, that when I reſolved to reveal it, a lively Senſe and Remembrance of it was renewed in my Mind, and I dictated it nearly as it now ſtands, without the leaſt Heſitation; as the Friend, who wrote it down with the greateſt Rapidity, well knows. Therefore I have the pleaſing Hope that all is under a divine Direction, and with the ſalutary Truths it conveys may be *deeply engraven* in the Hearts of all my Readers, as well as in my own.

Before I conclude this Relation, I judge it not improper to inſert ſome Expreſſions which one of my Friends told me I uttered juſt on my coming out of the *Viſion*, when I was in an Extacy of Divine Love: And which were immediately noted down in Writing—*Who can bear that dreadful Place? Lord deliver all my dear Friends from it! —Thoſe who go through moſt Tribulation ſit neareſt the Lamb.—Why will you continue in Darkneſs, when*

the

the Light is ſo clear?—O, I long to go home!—Sweet Majeſty, and awful Love, ſit ſmiling on his Brow.—I ſee Thouſands ſtriving to get in, who cannot.

Thus have I finiſhed what I had to ſay of the gracious Diſpenſation vouchſafed to me. But well knowing and conſidering that *many Men are of many Minds and Opinions*, ariſing from their various States in *Nature* and *Grace*; I do not doubt but that ſome Perſons will pay little or no Regard to this Manifeſtation of the *ſpiritual World*, though ever ſo great a *Reality*, as *ſuch* indeed it is; while others, who may have their Doubts and Heſitations about a Thing of ſo extraordinary a Nature, may be glad to have it corroborated and confirmed by ſimilar Example. To ſuch Readers, I am happy in having it in my Power, to preſent the following Account of a dying Woman, who had the *Glory* and *Happineſs* of the *other World* opened to her, juſt before her Departure out of *this*; as it is related by the Reverend and Learned Mr. *Charles Leſlie*, who attended her, during her lingering Illneſs, as well as in her very laſt Moments; and whoſe Caution and Integrity appear to have been ſuch, as put him above all Suſpicion of being impoſed on himſelf, or ſeeking to impoſe on others, in ſuch a Matter. The Account is to be found in a Pamphlet publiſhed ſome Years ago, and which

has

has fallen into my Hands, ſince the bleſſed Manifeſtation before related, was made to myſelf.

"I now" ſays Mr. *Leſlie*, "Come to the laſt Scene of her Life. She was worn to Skin and Bone by a long and lingering *Conſumption*, and all Hope of Recovery was for a good while taken away: But on *Tueſday* the *Fourth* of *March*, 1700, the more immediate Signs of Death appeared, her Speech faultered, and ſhe grew ſo weak that ſhe could not move one Hand from under the Cloaths, nor put it in again, but as they did it for her. The next Day (which was *Aſh-Wedneſday*) I told her in the Morning, that the Service of the Day was long, and aſked her if ſhe could bear it all? *Yes*, ſaid ſhe, *I will have it all, for it will be the laſt Time.* But before we got through the *Pſalms*; (which are the *ſeven Penitential* for that Day,) ſhe changed and we were forced to break off. She took Leave of her *Huſband*, and I went down with him to a Parlour below Stairs; for I had perſwaded him not to be preſent to ſee her expire. Such Sights often make too great Impreſſions, eſpecially on thoſe ſo nearly related; and he was a very kind Huſband, and extremely tender of her, and ſhe was now paſt all Knowledge of what was ſaid, and not capable of giving any Anſwer. I bid her Maid call me, when ſhe came

to the Point of *expiring*, that I might give her the recommendatory Prayer, which was all then remaining to be done. About ſeven or eight o'Clock at Night, her Speech quite failed her, her Fleſh grew *cold* and *ſtiff*, but ſhe appeared to be in *great Agony*, and the Rattle in her Throat was ſo *loud* as might be heard in the next Room. Thus ſhe continued till *four o'Clock* in the Morning, when her Maid came down, and told her Huſband and me (who ſat up all this while in the Parlour) that the Rattle in her Throat was quite gone, and all her Agonies ceaſed, that ſhe lay perfectly ſtill, but yet was not aſleep; for they could perceive her ſome Times to open her Eyes a little, but preſently ſhut them again; and ſeveral Times they held ſomething to her Mouth, to try if ſhe had Breath, for ſhe lay as ſtill as if ſhe had been dead. At *five* I went up to ſee how ſhe was, and ſome Noiſe being made at the opening the Door, ſhe ſtartled, and with ſtruggling got out the Word, *What!* Meaning what Noiſe that was. They told her it was I, who came to ſee how ſhe did, and to pray by her; ſhe *frowned*, and put on a very *angry* Look, and ſaid *Out, out*, and at laſt, *Put him out*; but ſpeaking the Words very imperfectly.—The Woman made Signs for me to withdraw, for they had kept the Room very ſtill and quiet, ſince ſhe had fallen into that ſtill Fit;

and

and I went down again to her Huſband. Juſt about *ſix o'Clock* her Maid came running down, and opening the Parlour Door in Haſte, I concluded it was to tell me (as I had deſired) that her Miſtreſs was juſt *expiring*; upon which, I ſaid to her Huſband, *Do not you go up, I'll go up.* But the Maid (with great Surpriſe in her Face) ſaid, *No, no, You muſt both come up; for my Miſtreſs hath ſent for you both, and ſhe is well and ſtrong, and more chearful than I ever ſaw her in my Life.* We ran up, and found her *ſitting* up in her *Bed*, with both her Arms out of the Cloaths expanded, and uſing them with full Freedom. There was a freſh and lively *Colour* in her *Face*, and her *Eyes* ſparkling with ſuch a *Tranſport* of *Joy*, as I never ſaw in any Face before, or ſince. Her Voice was ſtrong and loud, and her Words very diſtinct and articulate. She ſaid, as ſoon as we came into the Room, *I have ſent for you, to let you know, how gracious God has been to me; he has given me a Foretaſte of Heaven; he has ſhewed it to me. Oh! The glorious Sight that I have ſeen, of Angels and bleſſed Spirits; and Oh! The raviſhing Muſic! It is impoſſible to expreſs it. My Soul is exalted and enlarged! Oh! I could dance, I could ſing, I could fly!* that was her very Expreſſion. *Come*, ſaid ſhe, *Weep no more, but praiſe GOD with me, laugh, rejoice, and ſing!* In that *Rapture* ſhe continued about *Half an Hour*, before

we gave her any Interruption. The firſt Thing that came into my Mind was, that this might be a *Delirium*, and that ſhe was *light-headed*, as an Effect of her Diſtemper: But as ſhe had not the *leaſt* of that, during her whole Sickneſs, for which I have often heard her bleſs God, that amidſt all her Pains, he had kept *her Head* and *Reaſon undiſturbed*; ſo it ſeemed ſtrange to me, that ſuch *Fumes* (if that were the Cauſe) ſhould reſtore her *Strength*, *Speech* and *Sight*, in ſo wonderful a Manner; after ſhe had lain now *fifteen Hours* in the very *Jaws of Death*; for ſhe was every Thing but *dead*.

In *Fevers*, and other violent Attacks upon Nature, when it is ſtrong, there will be ſometimes a ſudden and vigorous *Revulſion* of the Spirits, which will ſtruggle when *expiring*; but it is not commonly ſo, when long and ſlow Sickneſſes have by Degrees, quite *exhauſted* the Strength of the Body, which drops down for Want of Spirits to ſupport it. But in all ſhe ſaid, bating the *Strangeneſs* of what ſhe related, there was not *one diſordered Word*, or that ſavoured of *Lightneſs*; and for *nine Hours* after that ſhe lived (for ſhe died not 'till *Three* in the Afternoon) ſhe ſpoke to her Huſband, to her Child (who was with her) to her Siſter, to her Servants; and concerning her temporal Affairs, with as much *Conſiſtency* and Strength of *Reaſon*, as

in

in all her Life; nor did *one Word*, that looked in the leaſt *giddy*, or *light-headed*, drop from her; though that Tranſport and Joy in her Face, and Chearfulneſs in her Voice, and all her Actions, continued with her *all along*, and in every Thing ſhe ſaid and did. The Impreſſion, that *Tranſport* of Pleaſure had printed in her Countenance, was not quite worn off when ſhe expired, and ſeemed to remain even after her Death: An Air of *Satisfaction* appeared in her Corpſe. She died without a *Sigh* or *Groan*, or the leaſt Struggle; or any Thing more terrible than ſeeing one fall into a *ſweet Sleep*, juſt at the Cloſe of the recommendatory Prayer. A little before ſhe died, when ſhe could no longer diſcourſe, but ſpeak ſingle Words, I ſaw her put her Finger to her Breaſt, when Death was making its laſt Effort, and ſay *Hard, hard*; but then immediately, as if correcting herſelf, ſhe lifted up both Hands, and looking up, with great Chearfulneſs in her Eyes, ſhe cried, *This Pain is nothing, Joy, Heaven!* Which were the *laſt Words* I heard her ſpeak.

The firſt Sight we had of that *ſtrange Tranſport* in her, which was about *Six o'Clock in the Morning*, had an Effect upon *me* more than upon *herſelf*. It literally turned our Mourning into Joy; for ſhe expreſſed herſelf with that Livelineſs and As-

SURANCE, as forced her Huſband, and other Relations, to expreſs their *Joy likewiſe*; and what Tears there were, were of Joy and Aſtoniſhment. I remember, while ſhe was deſcribing to us, *the Bleſſedneſs ſhe had ſeen*, ſhe took Notice of her Siſter weeping by her; and turning to her, took her kindly by the Hand, and ſaid, *What do you? Don't you believe me? Yes* ſaid her Siſter, *I do. No*, ſaid ſhe, *You don't; for if you did, you would not cry. Indeed, indeed, I tell you nothing but what I have ſeen, and what is true.*

As the firſt Impreſſion I had of this ſtrange Sight was, that it was a *Delirium*, or *Lightneſs* in the Head; I had a Mind to try the *Sincerity* of it all the *Ways I could.* She had all along during her Sickneſs, expreſſed an *Uneaſineſs at Dying*, and was *very deſirous to live*, with due Submiſſion to the Will of God. After the firſt Expreſſion of her *Tranſport*, I ſaid, *God has been very gracious to you, and he may do more ſtill: More*, ſaid ſhe, *What can be more? He may reſtore you again to your perfect Health, though in human Appearance, there is no Proſpect of it.- I know that*, ſaid ſhe. And ſtretching out her Arm, which was Skin and Bone, *He that made theſe Bones, may put Fleſh upon them again, if he pleaſes. But do you deſire it*; ſaid I, *ſhall we pray for it with Submiſſi-*

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on to his Will? Hold, ſaid ſhe: Then muſing awhile, ſaid, *Let me ſee, I am now in the Flower of my Age, going to my Thirtieth Year; I have a* KIND HUSBAND, GOOD CHILDREN *and* LOVING FRIENDS, *and* PLENTY *enough in the World; I* WANT *nothing: Are not theſe all the Reaſons any one can have to wiſh to live? And I was very deſirous to live, if it were God's Will; but now I would not live for all the World; nothing in the World could reliſh with me now. After what I have ſeen, all would be dead and inſipid to me. No: I would not live for Ten Thouſand Pounds a Year. I was loath to leave you* (ſaid ſhe to her Huſband) *and my Children, being young; and was very uneaſy to think of their coming under a Mother in law; but they are in God's Hands, and I lay no Deſire upon you* (ſaid ſhe to her Huſband) *not to marry again. No: theſe Deſires, which ſome dying People have, ſavour too much of the World; marry in God's Name, when you find it convenient to you, but don't forget my two* GIRLS: *Tis true, I leave you no Son, but two good Girls are better than one naughty Boy,* ſaid ſhe, with a pleaſant Air, *and you know not what a Boy might have proved. I was indeed loath to leave you, but now I would not ſtay with you,* (ſpeaking to her Huſband) *nor with you, nor you,* (turning to ſeveral Friends about her) *but raiſing herſelf up, and ſtretching both her Arms in an embracing*

ing Posture, said, I wish I could take you all with me; but you must stay God's Time, that is best.

I was now fully satisfied there was no *Delirium* in the Case, and the *Trouble* I was under an Hour before, hung still upon me. I then kneeled upon the Bed by her, and said, *Among all the rest, What have I done, that you are angry with me? With you,* said she, *Why, What's the Matter? You bid them turn me out,* said I, *and refused to have me pray by you. When was that?* said she: I said, *an Hour ago. Oh! An Hour ago,* she replied; *I was then otherwise employed, as you find, and you disturbed me. You disturbed me much more,* said I, *for it brought into my Mind what you used so often to say, that the Hour of Death was the Time of Trial; and if you found then I had indeed made the Way too easy, and deceived you, you should not then bear the Sight of me. This I took to be the Case, and it gave me great Disturbance; for I never expected to hear another Word from you. Therefore,* said she, *I was sent back to satisfy you, that the Way is sure, though it be EASY. And I have received full ASSURANCE, which leaves no Doubt behind it, that my Sins are all pardoned through the all-sufficient Satisfaction of my blessed Saviour; and that I am now going to that Place which I have seen, and hope to meet you there;* and taking me by the Hand, said, *No, indeed I am not angry with you,*

but

but I thank you heartily for all the Pains you have taken with me, and it has not been in vain; God reward you. I then told her, that *I heartily bleſſed God with her, and for her, but more for myſelf; for I looked upon it, that this wonderful Change was wrought in her, and that ſhe was ſent back from Death to Life, more for my Sake than her own; for ſhe ſoon would have had the Benefit of it, though we ſhould not have known it: But that I doubted whether I ever ſhould have overcome the Impreſſion that my Trouble gave me, even to Deſpondence. But that now God had in a wonderful Manner relieved me, and gave me a Comfort; which I hoped would remain with me till my dying Hour.* Then I aſked, if *I ſhould pray by her. Yes,* ſaid ſhe, *with all my Heart; but inſtead of the Pardon of my Sins, as you uſed to pray, let all now be Praiſe and Glory to God, who has ALREADY pardoned them.* Then I kneeled down, and repeated, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS, *Glory be to God on high, &c.* As it is in the End of the Communion Service, all the Company joining, and repeating with me aloud. And ſhe ſaid to all preſent, *I will tell you what the LORD hath done for my Soul, he hath granted me every Thing I deſired; I prayed for an eaſy Paſſage, for I was more afraid of dying, than of Death; and he has granted it me: For though I feel my Pains, and ſee Death approaching, the Horror of it is taken away, and I deſire to be diſſolved, and to be with CHRIST;*

and

and the Joy that I have ſeen abates my Pains, that I feel them not, as I did before.—I can bear them now. Oh what great Things GOD has done for me, far beyond what I could aſk or think! The Hand of the LORD is gracious; wait for him. I ſaid, one Comfort was, that it delivered us from our bodily Pains. She added, *and from our Infirmities, and from our Sins; that we ſhould no more provoke that good GOD, who had created us, and ſhed his Bload to redeem us, That is much more comfortable.* Then I reminded her how GOD had verified to her, and to me too, That in the *Thirtieth Pſalm* (the Pſalm for the Day of the Month, the *ſixth Day*) *His Wrath endureth but the Twinkling of an Eye, and in his Pleaſure is Life: Heavineſs may endure for a Night, but Joy cometh in the Morning.* Then ſhe ſaid, *LORD, now letteſt thou thy Servant depart in Peace, for mine Eyes have ſeen thy Salvation.* And thus ſhe did *depart in Peace*, the *ſixth* of *March*, 1700."

To this memorable Teſtimony, recorded by Mr. *Leſlie*, I have been prevailed on by a Friend, who wiſhes well to the Cauſe of GOD and Goodneſs, to add another Inſtance, equally remarkable and pertinent to the Point in Hand: Which is the bleſſed and joyful Experience of one Mrs. *Catherine Stubbs*, of *Burton* upon *Trent*, in the County of *Stafford*, as it was taken from her own Expreſ-

ſions,

ſions, and publiſhed in a Pamphlet, printed in the Year 1670.

This moſt pious *Young Chriſtian* (for it appears that ſhe was not Twenty-one Years of Age when ſhe died) lying on her Death-Bed, and being inflamed with an ardent Deſire to be with GOD, ſpoke thus to her Huſband and Friends about her: *I beſeech you, pray not that I ſhould live, for I think it long to be with my GOD: CHRIST is to me Life, and Death is to me Advantage: Yea, the Day of Death is the Birth Day of Everlaſting Life; and I cannot enter into Life, but by Death; therefore is Death the Door of Entrance into everlaſting Life. I know, and am certainly perſuaded by the Spirit of GOD, that the Sentence is given already by the great Judge, that I ſhall now depart out of this Life; and therefore pray not for me that I might live here, but pray to GOD to give me Strength and Patience to perſevere to the End.*

Some Times ſhe would ſpeak very ſoftly to herſelf, and ſometimes very audibly, theſe Words, repeating them an Hundred Times together; *O my God, why not now, why not now? I am ready for Thee, I am prepared; receive me now for CHRIST's Sake. O ſend the Meſſenger Death to fetch me; for my Body is nothing but a ſtinking*

Priſon to my Soul. O ſend thy holy Angels to conduct my Soul into the everlaſting Kingdom of Heaven.

At other Times ſhe would lie as if ſhe was in a Slumber, her Eyes cloſing, and her Lips uttering theſe Words very ſoftly to herſelf, *O my ſweet Jeſus, why not now, why not now? O ſweet Jeſus, pray for me, ſweet Jeſus, pray for me,* repeating the ſame many Times. She uſed frequently, as ſhe lay, to fall into a ſweet Smiling, and ſome Times into Laughter, her Countenance appearing very amiable, and pleaſed, as though ſhe was full of Joy at ſome glorious Sight. And when her Huſband would aſk her why ſhe ſo ſmiled and laughed, ſhe would anſwer. *Oh, if you ſaw ſuch glorious and heavenly Sights as I ſee, you would rejoice and laugh with me: For I ſee a Viſion of the Joys of Heaven, and of the Glory I ſhall go unto; and I ſee infinite Millions of Angels attendant upon me, and watching over me, ready to carry my Soul into the Kingdom of Heaven.* In regard whereof ſhe was willing to forſake herſelf, her Huſband, her Child, and all the World beſides; And ſo calling for her Child, which the Nurſe brought unto her, ſhe took it up in her Arms, and kiſſing it, ſaid, *God bleſs thee, my ſweet Babe, and make thee an Heir of the Kingdom of Heaven*; and kiſſing it again, delivered it unto the Nurſe, with theſe Words to her

her Husband standing by, *Beloved Husband, I bequeath this my Child unto you; he is no longer mine, he is the LORD's and your's. I forsake him, you, and all the World, yea, and mine own self, and esteem all Things but Dung, that I may win JESUS CHRIST. And I pray you, sweet Husband, bring up this Child to good Letters, in Learning and Discipline; and above all Things, see that he be brought up and instructed in the Exercise of true Religion.*

After this she fell into a Trance or Swoon, and continued therein a Quarter of an Hour, so that those about her thought she was dead; but afterwards coming to herself, she made in their Presence a Confession of her Faith. This she had no sooner finished, but she fell into a Conflict with the grand Enemy of Souls, which continued for a while, and ended in a triumphant Victory over him, obtained by the mighty Power of *Christ* working in her, and for her. Upon which she said, *He hath lost the Field, and I have won the Victory, even the Garland and Crown of everlasting Life; and that not by my own Power and Strength, but by the Power and Might of JESUS CHRIST; who hath sent his holy Angels to keep me.* And speaking to them that were by, she said, *Oh, would to GOD, you saw what I see: for behold, I see Millions of most glorious Angels stand about me, with fiery Chariots*

ready to defend me, as they did the good Prophet ELIAS. *These holy Angels, these miniſtering Spirits, are appointed by* GOD *to carry my Soul into the Kingdom of Heaven; where I ſhall behold the* LORD *Face to Face, and ſhall ſee him, not with other, but with the ſame Eyes.*

Now from henceforth I ſhall never taſte of Hunger nor Cold, Pain nor Woe, Miſery nor Affliction, Vexation nor Trouble, Fear nor Dread, nor any other Calamity or Adverſity whatſoever; from henceforth is laid up for me a Crown of Life, which CHRIST *ſhall give to all them which love him; and as I am now in Poſſeſſion thereof by Hope, ſo ſhall I be anon in full Fruition thereof, by the Preſence of my Soul, and hereafter of my Body alſo, when the* LORD *ſhall pleaſe.* Then ſhe ſpoke ſoftly to herſelf, as followeth, *Come, ſweet Jeſus; come, my Lord Jeſus. O ſend thy Purſevant, ſweet Jeſus, to fetch me. O ſweet Jeſus, ſtrengthen thy Servant, and keep thy Promiſe.* Then ſhe ſung a Pſalm moſt ſweetly, and with a chearful Voice; which done, ſhe deſired her Huſband that the 133d *Pſalm* might be ſung before her to Church. And farther deſired him, that he would not mourn for her, alledging That of the Apoſtle *Paul*, where he ſaith, "*Brethren, I would not have you to mourn, as Men without Hope, for them that die in the* LORD." Affirming that ſhe was not in a Condi-

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tion to be *mourned*, but rather *rejoiced*, for: For that ſhe *ſhould paſs*, as ſhe ſaid, *from Earth to Heaven, from Men to holy Angels, Cherubims, and Seraphims, to holy Saints, Patriarchs, and Fathers, yea to GOD himſelf.*

After which Words, very ſuddenly ſhe ſeemed as it were greatly to rejoice, and looked chearfully, as though ſhe had ſeen ſome glorious Sight: And lifting up her whole Body, and ſtretching forth her Arms, as though ſhe would embrace ſome glorious and pleaſant Thing, ſaid, *I thank my GOD through JESUS CHRIST, he is come, he is come; my good Jaylor is come to let my Soul out of Priſon. O ſweet Death, thou art welcome unto me, as thou art the welcome Meſſenger of everlaſting Life: Welcome, the Door and Entrance into everlaſting Glory: Welcome, I ſay, and thrice welcome, my good Jaylor; do thy Office quickly, and ſet my Soul at Liberty. Strike, ſweet Death, ſtrike my Heart; I fear not thy Stroke. Now it is.—Father, into thy bleſſed Hands I commend my Spirit: ſweet JESUS, into thy Hands I commend my Spirit: Bleſſed Spirit of GOD, I commit my Soul into thy Hands. O moſt holy, bleſſed, and glorious Trinity, three Perſons, and one true and everlaſting GOD, into thy bleſſed Hands I commit my Soul and Body.* At which Words her Breath ceaſed, and ſo, moving neither Hand nor Foot, ſhe ſlept ſweetly in the LORD.

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And now, my dear *Fellow Pilgrims*, who are all travelling together with me, through fleeting Time, into a long and vaſt Eternity; and are, in the preſent lukewarm, barren, Wilderneſs-State of the *Church*, too much, I fear, captivated by the *worldly Spirit*, to the great and lamentable Decay of *Chriſtian Piety*, *brotherly Love* and *Heaven-born Charity*; let me, in the Preſence of GOD and his *Holy Angels*, and in the Bowels of tender Compaſſion, intreat you to FAST, WATCH, and PRAY, that they may be *renewed* in your Hearts. No longer continue *dead Chriſtians*, while you are *living Men*; nor go on to love the accurſed Thing *Gold*, more than you love your GOD, and your *needy Brethren*: But as *Fellow Immortals*, attend more and more to the *one Thing needful*, viz. the Salvation of your precious and immortal Souls. A tender Love to thoſe *precious Souls*, and a ſincere Deſire, according to my Ability, of manifeſting the Glory and Goodneſs of GOD, have induced me thus freely to communicate to you, what my *ſpiritual Eyes* have really beheld in the HEAVENLY CITY; when I was, through ſuperabundant Mercy, favoured with a momentary View of the inexpreſſible Glory of the beatified Saints and holy Angels; and had a tranſient Foretaſte of their Happineſs.

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In the Contemplation of the Grandeur of *theſe Objects*, and the *heavenly Inheritance, ſubſtantial Riches*, and *never-fading Bliſs*, which will be the happy Portion of holy Souls, on their entering into the eternal World of glorified Spirits; may we all be led, with open Eyes, to ſee the *Littleneſs* and *Emptineſs* of all ſublunary Things; and generouſly renouncing the whole Spirit of this World, *work while it is Day, for the Night cometh when no Man can work.* And ſo ſhall we come out of the *Multiplicity* into the *Unity;* and no longer waſte the precious Moments, in contending about *trifling Modes, empty Forms*, or groundleſs *diſtracting Opinions*, in which we are ſo much *abſorbed*, to the *vexing* and *narrowing* our own Spirits, *hurting* the Spirits of each other, and *ſhutting* brotherly Love out of our Hearts.

In a Word, let us no longer idly debate and quarrel about the *Way* to Heaven; ſince our own Hearts tell us, that the *beſt, ſhorteſt*, and moſt *infallible* Way to it, is *Love*. Indeed, it is Love alone, that makes the eſſential Difference between Man and Man; a *deformed Devil*, and moſt *beauteous Angel*. Accordingly, my *dear Readers*, I ſhould deem it a great Happineſs, if I could pierce all your Hearts with the Arrows of *Divine Love*, and perſuade every Denomination of Chriſtians, who are ſo *cloſely ſhut up* in their ſeveral *little Cabins* of

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religious Forms and Opinions, *courageously* to venture *out* of them, and *launch* into the deep and boundleſs Ocean of DIVINE LOVE; and drinking deep at the Fountain-Head of Goodneſs, overflow in *Loving-Kindneſs* to all their Fellow Creatures, and thereby make *all Men know, that they are CHRIST's Diſciples: Who is that true Light, which lighteth every Man that cometh into the World.* O then REMEMBER THE LIGHT! that eternal, omnipreſent, all-illuminating, all-ſaving *Light* of GOD. May we continually *reverence*, *love*, and *adore* it, as the DIVINITY in our Souls, that enriches them with all the *Virtues* and *Graces* of the heavenly Life, and fills them with deep inward *Comfort*, and *Divine Joy*; even that *Joy*, which the World can neither give, nor take away. So ſhall we become like the *Royal Pſalmiſt's* King's Daughter, *All glorious within;* and at the awful, joyful Summons, be brightly cloathed, and fitly qualified to be joint Partakers with *Seraphim*, and *Cherubim*, and the *Saints* in Bliſs, of the ſame inexpreſſible Happineſs and Glory to all Eternity, in that CITY, *whoſe Builder and Maker is GOD;* and where nothing is heard, but *Hallelujah, Salvation, and Glory, and Honour, and Power unto the LORD our GOD.*

I conclude, with Love, Adoration, and Gratitude to that GOD, for his unnumbered Mercies,

known

known and unknown; but more eſpecially, for enabling me, by his Grace *in me*, to *remember Him my Creator in the Days of my Youth.* To liſp his Praiſe, and to pour out my Heart continually to Him, in that *Spirit of Prayer*, whoſe *Sighs* and *Groans*, which cannot be uttered, *open the Gates of Everlaſting Life*, and which goes on conquering and to conquer, all the inward and outward Enemies of our Souls; 'till it gradually unfolds in them the *full Birth* of DIVINE LOVE, HUMILITY, and ſweet CONTENTMENT; thereby admitting us, even in this Life, into the HOLY of HOLIES: A bleſſed Union with GOD, and CHRIST, and HEAVEN, in which conſiſts, here, as well as hereafter, the *Supreme Happineſs* of Man.

To this ſupreme Happineſs, I moſt earneſtly and affectionately invite all my *dear Readers*, Rich and Poor, Learned and Unlearned, all being capable of the *bleſſed Spirit of Prayer*: This feaſting upon Angels Food, which if thoughtleſsly neglected, or proudly deſpiſed, will at the parting Moment of *Death*, leave the poor Soul a *craving Void*, ſenſible only of its own *gnawing Worm*, and inceſſant, ſelf-tormenting Anguiſh and Miſery, as the neceſſary Conſequence of its being deſtitute of the bleſſed *Light* and *Spirit* of the living GOD: which only

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can give ſolid COMFORT, PEACE, and JOY, to all created Spirits.

May then the long uſurped and idolatrous Religion of pompous, deluſive Ceremonies, on the one Hand, and lifeleſs Opinions on the other, which have overrun all Chriſtendom, be depoſed; and GOD *worſhiped in Spirit and in Truth*; ſo ſhall the vital Religion of Univerſal Love, Goodneſs, Truth, and Salvation, at laſt ſpring up, and be *enthroned* in the Hearts of all *Chriſtian Princes*, and their *Subjects*, and cruel deſtructive *War* be at an End; and nothing be heard, but the joyful, bleſſed Salutation of, *Glory to GOD in the higheſt, and on Earth, Peace, Good-Will towards Men.*

And now, having, with great inward Satisfaction, diſcharged what I thought an incumbent Duty to GOD and my *Fellow Creatures*, I will, through divine Grace, more immediately *unite* myſelf to that infinite, fathomleſs Ocean of Love, our common *Center* of Happineſs; to which bleſſed Union, I alſo moſt affectionately invite all my *dear Readers.* And as we continually pour out our Breath into the great *Airy Element*, as the only Means of receiving from it freſh Supplies every Moment, otherwiſe we ſhould *die*: So let us continually pour out our *immortal Spirit* into the one

Holy

Holy Element, that thereby we may, from *Moment* to *Moment*, *attract* and *imbibe* freſh, invigorating Supplies of God's *Holy Spirit*: And thus live, in Union and Communion with Him and each other here, during our ſhort and mortal Pilgrimage; and hereafter, with Him, and with the Glorious Company of Saints and Angels, in endleſs *Bliſs* and *Glory*.

Bristol, *October* 17, 1781.

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